

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-8 and 20-24 are canceled. Claims 16, 18-20 and 25-28, which are allowed, remain pending in the application. Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, 103 and Allowed Claims

The Patent Office rejected claims 4 and 6, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Patent Office also rejected claims 1-8 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safai (U.S. Patent No. 6,715,003), either alone or in combination Roberts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,222) and Squilla et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,537). Claim 1-8 and 20-24 have been canceled, obviating these rejections.

Applicant again wishes to seek expeditious issuance of a patent containing claims directed to subject matter found allowable by the Patent Office. Thus, claims 1-8 and 20-24 are canceled. Consequently, it is believed that all claims currently presented for consideration, (i.e., claims 16, 18-20 and 25-28) are allowable, and issuance of the present Application as a Patent is solicited. Nevertheless, Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejections of or objections to claims 1-8 and 21-24, and reserves the right to present claims drawn to the same or similar subject matter for consideration in a continuing application.

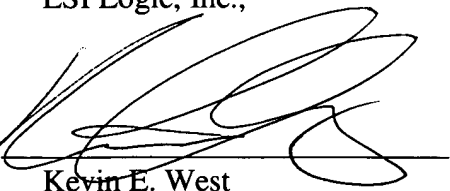
CONCLUSION

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance of all claims. Accordingly, notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 25, 2005

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Application Serial Number 09/472,630
Response to the Office Action Dated February 25, 2005
Mailed May 11, 2005

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